

If you wish to deaden your senses, be a drunkard, and you will soon be more stupid than an ass.

If you are resolved to kill yourself, be a drunkard, and you will hit upon a sure mode of self-destruction.

If you would expose both your folly and your secrets, be a drunkard; they will run out as the liquor runs in.

If you think you are strong, be a drunkard, and you will soon find yourself subdued by so powerful an enemy.

If you would get rid of your money without knowing how, be a drunkard, and you will do it effectually.

If you are hated by your family and friends, be a drunkard, and you will soon be more disagreeable.

If you would be a pest to society, be a drunkard, and society will avoid you as an infection.

If you would smash windows, break the peace, get your bones broken, tumble under horses and carts, and be put in the lock-up, be a drunkard, and it will be strange if you don't succeed.

If you wish all your prospects in life to be clouded, be a drunkard, and they will soon be dark enough.

If you would destroy your body, be a drunkard, as drunkenness is the mother of disease.

If you wish to ruin the soul, be a drunkard, that you may be excluded from heaven.—*Tract.*

SETTING THE FACE TOWARDS CHRIST.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

The new year is a good time to make new departures. Some of my readers may look back over the year 1887, and feel like writing under its record "*Nothing but leaves.*" It was a barren year, barren in prayer, in work, and in the fruits of the Spirit. Fold up the unprofitable record, my friend, and lay it away; tears will not bring back any of its lost opportunities. "This battle is *lost*," said Napoleon to one of his marshals; "but there is time enough before sundown to fight another." The bugles sounded to a fresh rally, and the sun went down on the imperial eagles triumphant.

Begin the new year by setting your face like a flint towards Jesus Christ. Backsliding always begins with turning away the eye from Him; whichever way

the face looks, the footsteps tend. While Paul was "looking unto Jesus," he was not diverted from the straight road by any side-attractions, and he held on towards the heavenly prize. As soon as a professed Christian ceases to keep his eye on God's Book as his guide, on Christ's Cross as his only hope, on Christ's example as his model, and Christ's service as the chief end of life, he is a backslider. His countenance cannot shine when it is turned away from his Saviour, any more than our globe can when it is turned away from the sun.

Our Lord drew sharp lines and made clean issues. Whoever was unwilling to take up his cross daily and follow Jesus, could not be a disciple. There was no room in the little band for "Mr. Two-Tongues" or "Mr. Facing-both-ways." The man who put his hand to the plough and looked back, was not fit, i. e., he "was not *well put* for the kingdom of God." All the most effective characters in the Bible—Caleb the steadfast, Elijah before Ahab, Nehemiah who said "Yet not I," Daniel in Babylon, and Paul at Nero's bar—all these were men who stood straight in their shoes, with their faces set like a flint. Looking only one way, they never grew confused, they never missed their aim or lost the road.

A religion of this fibre is at a premium in these days. An ungodly world will be compelled to observe such Christly living; every one who reflects Christ, becomes a fixed star whose light cannot be hid. God himself loves to behold those who carry Jesus in their faces.

Begin this new year, my friend, by showing yourself where you have been quite to much a stranger. One Week in Prayer will not be enough; you need every week to be where Jesus gathers His disciples. Go and call on your pastor, and confess that you have been a delinquent; give him to understand that this year he may count on you as his "backer" in every good work. If you are kept from the house of God on any Sabbath, find a substitute; invite some church-neglecting neighbor to go and occupy your seat. Perhaps he may hear a message that will save his soul. Follow up every faithful discourse your pastor preaches with prayer, and with personal efforts for the conversion of those you can reach. Pull with your pastor, never against him. Strengthen his hands in the Lord as Jonathan